

# INTEROFFICE MEMO



DATE: April 16, 2003

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FROM: **RANDY SCOTT**, Division Chief  
Land Use Services Department, Advance Planning Division

TO: **NARESH VARMA**, P.E., Chief  
Department of Public Works, Environmental Management Division

File: Roundup Way/Yard 16/W.O.#TA0492

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SUBJECT: YARD 16 - CEQA CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO  
ROUNDUP WAY, APPLE VALLEY AREA

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I have reviewed, for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance, the project description for improvements to Roundup Way, from Buena Vista Street easterly to Bonita Vista Street, in the Apple Valley Area. Improvements include overlaying the existing asphalt with a 0.06' layer of SC3000 surface treatment. All work will be performed within the existing right-of-way. The length of the project is approximately 1.26 miles and is located in the unincorporated area of the County, in the vicinity of Apple Valley. The specific road segment to be improved is designated on the attached vicinity maps. Estimated start date for this project is July 1, 2003, and it will take an estimated two (2) weeks to complete.

The Department of Public Works recognizes that this project is in a desert tortoise category 3 overlay area and the desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), is a federally and state listed threatened species. However, the State Department of Fish and Game Representative and desert tortoise expert (Rebecca Jones) and the Department of Public Works' Ecologist have determined by a site visit and field review that there is no tortoise/habitat in the vicinity of the project. An interoffice memo dated February 3, 2003, from the Ecologist states that the habitat bordering the project site potentially supports Mojave ground squirrel (*Spermophilus mojavensis*), a state listed threatened species and there was no indication that the project will adversely impact any of the area's species of special protected status, because the project will not extend beyond the existing road limits.

It is my opinion that the proposed improvements to Roundup Way qualify for a Class 1 Categorical Exemption under Section 15301(c) of the CEQA Guidelines. The Class 1 Exemption allows maintenance, repair, or minor alteration of existing facilities with negligible expansion of the existing use, including existing highways and streets.

To complete the exemption process, I recommend that a Notice of Exemption be filed with the Clerk of the Board.

RS:KR:kr/RoundupWayCatEx

Attachments

cc: Patrick Egle, Advanced Planning  
Chris Saed, Transportation Design

Kelly A. Rozich, Environmental Management